



*State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913*

*PH (517) 373.6920 | FAX (517) 373.2751*

*[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/)*

For Immediate Release  
April 20, 2004

Contact: Darin Ackerman  
517-373-6920

## **Senators propose legislation to create Michigan Merit Exam as MEAP replacement**

**LANSING** — A bipartisan group of Michigan senators today announced a five-bill package that would replace the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test for high-school students with one based on a college-entrance exam. The new comprehensive test would prepare students for college and the workplace.

Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, said the legislation follows the recommendation of the Education Alliance of Michigan, which issued a report earlier this year urging the Legislature to study the replacement of the high-school MEAP test.

“This new test will fix much of what has bothered parents, teachers and, most importantly, students about the MEAP,” said Kuipers, who chairs the Senate Education Committee. “Whether students will enter the workforce immediately or attend college after graduation, this test would ensure young people are prepared for Michigan’s 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy.”

The proposed test, called the Michigan Merit Exam, would use a combination of a college-admissions test, a workplace skills exam and a social studies component. The test would first be given to students in 2006. The effort is supported by a broad coalition of state leaders in secondary and post-secondary education.

“We have found strong support for this change,” said Donna Oser, executive director of the Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association. “Replacing the MEAP with a college-entrance exam appeals to parents because their child will be taking a test that has recognized national credibility.”

The college-admissions test to be used isn’t specified in the legislation.

###

**Photos from the news conference will be available online at  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire).**